

PROJECT TITLE: MISSISSIPPI DIGITAL LIBRARY PROGRAM

ABSTRACT

The collaborative digital project—Mississippi’s first—is an effort to develop the infrastructure, collaboration model, standards, and workflow to support a lasting cooperative digital library program for the state. The project focuses on primary sources associated with the civil rights era, since the partner repositories hold rich collections on that topic and considering the national significance of Mississippi’s place in the movement. It emphasizes the involvement of traditionally black universities and other institutions that serve a significant number of minority students. Participants will create a union database of finding aids to provide intellectual control over primary source collections, and it will digitize selected materials from partner repositories to create a globally accessible digital archive. The desired outcomes are to 1) lead more learners to visit the state’s archival repositories and to connect with the rich collections of primary sources that they hold, 2) contribute to an enhanced knowledge of the history of race relations in America through global access to a digital archive of first hand documentation of the civil rights era, 3) result in a sustained collaborative digital program for Mississippi, 4) create an alternative model for digital collaboration, and 5) continue to develop a mechanism for resolving intellectual property and privacy rights issues for 20th Century collections.